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Cholera, yellow fever, plague, smallpox, etc.—Continued.

SMALLPOX—Continued.

Places.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
Turkey:				
Constantinople.....	Jan. 10-Feb. 6...	53		
	Feb. 28-May 8...	94		
Uruguay:				
Montevideo.....	Dec. 25-Mar. 19...	5		
	May 1-May 7...	1		
Venezuela:				
Caracas.....	June 7.....			Smallpox reported.
Puerto Cabello.....	Apr. 2-Apr. 11...	23	6	Smallpox increasing, June 7, 1898.
Valencia.....	Apr. 2-Apr. 11...	54		Do.
Wales:				
Cardiff.....	Dec. 18-Dec. 24...	1		

ARABIA.

Statement in regard to the appearance of plague at Djiddah in 1898.

[From the reports addressed to the British Ambassador by the British consul at Djiddah.]

On March 22 the sanitary inspector of Djiddah announced the suspected presence of plague in the city. From that date and up to April 16, inclusive, 21 plague cases and 34 deaths from plague were registered at the health office. It must be taken into account that the inhabitants endeavor to conceal the patients from medical inspection and entirely refuse to allow sick women and the bodies of the dead to be visited and examined.

The first suspicious case was observed by Dr. Poempouras, whose attention was drawn to a case of fever, accompanied by swelling of the lymphatic glands. This case recovered after eight or ten days' illness.

The second case observed was noted by Dr. Nekitnikow, secretary of the Russian consulate. The patient suffered with intense fever, accompanied by engorgement of the glands of the groin. The case terminated fatally in four or five days. In both cases the patients were inhabitants of Djiddah and had not been absent from the city for a considerable time.

The relations of the persons affected testified to their having recently purchased some garments. Dr. Mohammed-Houssein was not able to discover the origin of the clothing in question, but it is known that all the clothing belonging to plague patients of last year was not destroyed.

Dr. Nouri Bey, who had arrived at Djiddah from Mecca toward the end of March, examined blood and pus taken from these suspect cases and made bacteriological tests, but without positive results which would justify a diagnosis of the disease.

The local and sanitary authorities have done all in their power to maintain the city in a state of cleanliness and to disinfect the houses of the sick. They have also rented the upper story of a café, situated in the suburbs of the city, to be used as a hospital for plague patients. The population of Djiddah is, however, poor and ignorant and the people object to destruction of their clothing. Hence they conceal cases of sickness.

Dr. Mohammed-Houssein announced the arrival at Djiddah, on April 12, of a sanitary commission composed of Drs. Cozzonis, Pacha Fouad Bey, and Nicolaidi. Dr. Bitter, envoy of the sanitary council of Egypt,

arrived at the same time, and, together with Dr. Cozzonis, made an examination of the suspect cases. On a basis of clinical symptoms these cases were pronounced plague. In the pus taken from the engorged glands of one patient the bacillus of Yersin was found in great numbers.

Dr. Mohammed-Houssein visited Ras-el-Assouad on April 14. He describes this locality as a sandy beach, situated about a mile from the island of Abou-Ali.

The depth of the sea at Ras-el-Assouad is sufficient to permit the sambouks, at all seasons, to approach within 20 feet of the shore. There is no dwelling within a radius of 8 miles, and isolation of the place could very readily be effected. At the time of Dr. Mohammed-Houssein's visit it was very clean. There are two wooden wharves, each 30 feet long, which were constructed by the sanitary administration. On one of these wharves are two small offices, one for the health officer who collects the sanitary tax from the pilgrims at the moment of embarkation, the other for the clerk who delivers the *teskeré* for Mecca. Connected with the other wharf is a large barrack capable of containing 50 persons, two smaller barracks and 20 tents, in all capable of sheltering 300 persons. Beside these there are 20 tents for accommodating the soldiers and personnel of the service. Twenty sambouks are employed for the disembarkation of pilgrims and the transportation of water and provisions to Ras-el-Assouad. A government contractor has been appointed at Ras-el-Assouad to furnish bread, dates, cheese, and other provisions to pilgrims at reasonable prices. With a favorable wind the sambouk brings the vessel into shore in about twenty or twenty-five minutes. The pilgrims are disembarked at the first wharf, where they pay the sanitary and passport tax. They are then transferred to the second wharf with their baggage, to be passed by the customs officers. The pilgrims are in general not allowed to land before the camels are ready to convey them to Mecca. They set out early on the day after their disembarkation. In one day as many as 1,500 or 2,000 pilgrims may be landed. Disembarkation always takes place under supervision of a sanitary employee.

Thirty mounted soldiers and 10 foot soldiers compose the guard of the station. Twenty-five or thirty horse soldiers accompany the caravan from Ras-el-Assouad to the first stopping place.

At 7 o'clock in the evening a bugle call proclaims that no one shall be permitted to enter or leave the inclosure of Ras-el-Assouad until morning. Dr. Mohammed-Houssein concludes his report by observing that the transfer of pilgrims to Mecca without allowing them to communicate with Djiddah is an excellent measure, as it prevents the crowding of lodging houses and favors the maintenance of cleanliness in the streets by the absence of the numerous camels which would otherwise pass the night in the city.

Drinking water is carried from Djiddah to Ras-el-Assouad in iron reservoirs. It is distributed gratuitously to poor pilgrims and sold to well off pilgrims at one piastre a day.

Ras-el-Assouad, Dr. Mohammed-Houssein concludes, is well chosen for the site of the disembarkation of pilgrims on account of its isolated situation and the facility with which disembarkation may be effected, but the existence of contraband communication between Djiddah and the pilgrim encampment at Ras-el-Assouad is a serious evil. At least one hundred persons daily bring articles from Djiddah for sale in the camp, and no means have been adopted to interrupt this traffic.

E. D. DICKSON, *Delegate of England*.